

Eighteen Individual Colleges & Universities Recognized as Top Green Power Purchasers in their Conference

Ivy League Retains Distinction as Overall Champion Conference

Contact: Dave Ryan, (202) 564-4355 / ryan.dave@epa.gov

(Washington, D.C. - April 28, 2008) For the second year in a row, the Ivy League wins the crown as the overall champion conference in EPA's 2007-2008 College & University Green Power Challenge. Led by the University of Pennsylvania, the Ivy League's cumulative annual purchase of more than 220 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) has the equivalent environmental impact of avoiding the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of nearly 32,000 vehicles. This year's challenge included 40 competing institutions representing 18 different conferences nationwide.

"EPA applauds this year's College & University Green Power Conference Champions for their leadership in green power purchasing," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "By switching to green power resources these schools are proving that doing what's good for the environment is also good for education."

Since the spring of 2007, EPA has ranked collegiate athletic conferences by the total amount of green power bought by their member schools. To be eligible, each school in the conference had to qualify as an EPA Green Power Partner and each conference had to collectively purchase at least 10 million kWh of green power. For added information on how your school can qualify as an EPA Green Power Partner, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/join/steps.htm>

Green power is a subset of renewable energy and represents those resources and technologies that generate electricity with the highest environmental benefit. Green power is produced from eligible resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, biomass and low-impact hydro. Green power has a superior environmental profile to traditional power generation, generating electricity with no net increase of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere.

EPA's Green Power Partnership encourages organizations to buy green power as a way to reduce the environmental impacts associated with traditional fossil fuel-based electricity use. The partnership includes a diverse set of organizations including Fortune 500 companies, small and medium businesses, government institutions as well as a growing number of colleges and universities.

In addition to the Ivy League, EPA's Green Power Partnership also recognized the leading green power purchases of 17 other schools as individual conference champions. In total, the colleges and universities represented in this year's challenge are buying more than 960 million kWh of green power annually. EPA estimates that this amount of green power is equal to the electricity needed to power nearly 97,000 average American homes each year.

EPA also announced the kickoff of the 2008-2009 Green Power Challenge this week, which is scheduled to conclude in the spring of 2009.

The 18 individual conference champions for the 2007-2008 challenge are listed below, with the Ivy League taking top conference honors:

Conference Champion	State	Conference Affiliation	Champion's Purchase	Conference's Total Purchase
Univ. of Pennsylvania	Pa.	Ivy League	192,727,000	221,583,000
New York University	N.Y.	University Athletic Assoc.	132,000,000	147,000,000
Pennsylvania State Univ.	Pa.	Big Ten Conference	83,600,000	133,600,000
Oregon State University	Ore.	Pacific-10 Conference	66,680,400	84,024,400
Colby College	Maine	New England Small Coll. Athl.	17,428,000	61,890,000
Univ. of Calif., Santa Cruz	Calif.	Assoc. of Division III Indep.	57,000,000	59,400,000
Western Washington Univ.	Wash.	Great Northwest Athletic Conf.	40,000,000	42,841,400
University of Utah	Utah	Mountain West Conf.	36,666,000	40,103,466
Southern Oregon Univ.	Ore.	Cascade Collegiate Conf.	17,622,000	33,828,000
University of Central Okla.	Okla.	Lone Star Conference	26,000,000	26,000,000
Syracuse University	N.Y.	Big East Conference	22,000,000	22,000,000
Southern N.H. Univ.	N.H.	Northeast-10 Conference	12,000,000	16,000,000
St. Mary's College of Md.	Md.	Capital Athletic Conference	15,000,000	15,000,000
University at Buffalo	N.Y.	Mid-American Conference	13,300,000	13,300,000
Oberlin College	Ohio	North Coast Athletic Conf.	10,856,240	12,806,240
Duquesne University	Pa.	Atlantic 10 Conference	12,500,000	12,500,000
Lewis & Clark College	Ore.	Northwest Conference	4,432,000	10,518,400
Rowan University	N.J.	New Jersey Athletic Conf.	10,433,673	10,433,673

For a complete list of all partner organizations in EPA's Green Power Partnership, visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/partners/index.htm>

For added information on EPA's College & University Green Power Challenge, visit:

http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/initiatives/cu_challenge.htm

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News for Release: Monday, April 28, 2008
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA Celebrates National Volunteer Week

Contact: Dave Ryan, (202) 564-4355 / ryan.dave@epa.gov

(Washington, D.C. - April 28, 2008) National Volunteer Week (April 27 – May 3) honors Americans who serve others in their communities through volunteerism and encourages all citizens to get involved in volunteer service. This year's theme is "Volunteer to Change the World."

"America has a long and proud tradition of volunteer service. And now more than ever, volunteers are renewing their commitment to helping others and bringing us closer together," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "I encourage you to volunteer this week – and every week – to help make your communities and our environment a better place."

Throughout the year, EPA honors individuals who are answering the call to volunteer service, environmental education and pollution prevention with the President's Volunteer Service Award. In a recent ceremony at the White House, Administrator Johnson, along with President and Mrs. Bush, presented awards to students from across the United States who are making a difference in our environment.

"Environmental responsibility is everyone's responsibility," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "These outstanding students have made protecting our planet an everyday commitment, and proven that together we can create a cleaner, healthier world."

EPA's Web site, www.epa.gov, is hosting several online features to mark National Volunteer Week including a Green Scene video and podcast. In addition, the EPA home page will highlight a history of National Volunteer Week with a link to the Agency's 2007 Volunteer Report.

In other volunteer events, Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Marcus Peacock, today gave remarks and joined volunteers from EPA to help beautify and clean up the Anacostia Park along the riverbanks of the Anacostia River in Washington, D.C. Home and Garden Television (HGTV) was on site to film the activities.

For information, go to: <http://www.epa.gov> or <http://www.volunteer.gov>

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News for Release: Tuesday, April 22, 2008
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA Signs MOU with The Green Grid to Enhance Energy Efficiency

Contact: Suzanne Ackerman, (202) 564-4355 / ackerman.suzanne@epa.gov

(Washington, D.C. - April 22, 2008) On April 21, EPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Green Grid to promote energy efficiency in small computer rooms. This event recognizes the innovative efforts of EPA and the Information Technology (IT) industry to promote the "greening" of computer facilities. The effort begins with evaluating an existing EPA computer room for ways to optimize energy efficiency, then finding ways to standardize processes and performance measures. Ultimately, the goal of this partnership is to share best practices for replication with other governmental agencies and industry stakeholders. Future partnerships between EPA, federal partners, and associations will help design and build our way into a green federal IT infrastructure.

Computer rooms across the United States accounted for an astonishing 1.5 percent of total U.S. electricity demand in 2006 - equivalent to the annual electric consumption of the state of Florida. "Throughout the U.S., computer centers are becoming the fastest growing users of energy. As this sector experiences tremendous growth, EPA and The Green Grid see tremendous opportunity," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "By investing in energy efficiency in our own computer centers, we are proving that doing what's good for the environment is also good for the bottom line." While

these computer rooms may be small, they are numerous at EPA and other large organizations, and this effort promises to yield large energy savings.

EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson and John Tuccillo, a director of The Green Grid, formalized the MOU in a signing ceremony held in Washington, D.C.

Energy Efficiency at the NCC

EPA has already begun reducing energy consumption in its National Computer Center (NCC) in Research Triangle Park, N.C. In FY 2007, EPA initiated numerous energy saving projects at the NCC including high-efficiency lighting, solar panels, and heating and cooling systems designed to prevent energy waste. The NCC achieved a 20.2 percent reduction in total energy use (e.g. gas, electric, etc.) for FY 2007 compared to FY 2006. This reduction surpasses the FY07 Conserve (EPA's energy tracking and forecasting strategy) goal of five percent for the NCC and equates to a considerable energy cost savings. In addition to recommissioning the entire facility, EPA focused significant effort in improving the energy performance of the computer wing. An extensive third party review of the data center's operating conditions resulted in EPA shutting off six of the facility's 13 computer room air conditioning units, while still meeting the sensitive cooling needs of the computer equipment. For more information on energy efficiency at the NCC:

http://www.epa.gov/greeningepa/facilities/rtp_ncc.htm

About The Green Grid

The Green Grid is a global consortium of companies dedicated to advancing energy efficiency in data centers and business computing ecosystems. The Green Grid does not endorse any vendor-specific products or solutions, and will seek to provide industry-wide recommendations on best practices, metrics and technologies that will improve overall data center energy efficiencies. Membership is open to companies interested in data center operational efficiency. Additional information is available at: <http://www.thegreengrid.org>

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News Brief

For Release: (Washington, D.C. – Tuesday, April 22, 2008)

For Earth Day, Have a Greenversation

Contact: Jeffrey Levy, (202) 564-4355 / levy.jeffrey@epa.gov

Want an insider's look at what it takes to protect America's environment and human health? Check out EPA's new blog, "Greenversations," authored by EPA employees stationed around the country.

Encouraging environmental dialogue, Greenversations features EPA employees sharing their unique perspective on environmentalism and personal experiences in protecting and improving our nation's water, land, and air. Bloggers will give a behind-the-scenes look at activities that are often not publicized but greatly affect how the agency protects our environment. Readers of Greenversations are in turn encouraged to comment on blog entries, entering into green conversations.

With its launch, Greenversations replaces "Flow of the River," a blog written by EPA Deputy Administrator Marcus Peacock. Mr. Peacock will continue to blog, joining other employees on Greenversations.

Join the Greenversation at: <http://blog.epa.gov/>

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News for Release: Tuesday, April 22, 2008

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Pledge to Make Earth Day, Every Day with Energy Star

EPA Launches New Campaign in Fight Against Climate Change

Contact: Shakeba Carter-Jenkins, (202) 564-4355 / carter-jenkins.shakeba@epa.gov

(Washington, D.C. - April 22, 2008) Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching a national campaign to help Americans join in the fight against climate change. The campaign, "Change the World, Start with Energy Star" helps people make important energy-efficient changes at home and at work that can add up to significant reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases.

"Environmental responsibility is everyone's responsibility and this Earth Day, we are encouraging people to take common sense steps to reduce their climate footprints," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "Through our new 'Change the World: Start with Energy Star' campaign, we are helping people save green by going green."

The campaign builds on the success of the Energy Star Change a Light campaign by providing a set of steps people can take to save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to replacing at least one light in the home with an Energy Star one, the new Energy Star pledge encourages consumers to:

- Make home heating and cooling systems work more efficiently
- Make sure homes are well sealed and insulated
- Enable the power management features on home computers and monitors
- Choose an Energy Star qualified refrigerator, dishwasher and/or clothes washer when replacing or purchasing new appliances

Taking energy efficient steps at home and at work can make an important difference in addressing climate change. Buildings contribute about 40 percent of the nation's emissions of carbon dioxide, the primary greenhouse gas, as most of the energy used in buildings comes from the burning of fossil fuels. These emissions can be reduced substantially through energy efficiency and the steps of the Energy Star pledge. If every American household took part in this new Energy Star pledge, we would save more than \$18 billion in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 18 million cars.

Individuals can take the pledge at: <http://www.energystar.gov/changetheworld>

More than 1,200 local and national organizations have already encouraged their communities to take the Energy Star Change a Light pledge nationwide. These include top pledge drivers like Pacific Gas & Electric, Georgia Power, Southern California Edison, Salt River Project and the Commonwealth of Virginia. They will now join these additional organizations to promote the expanded Energy Star pledge encouraging Americans to go beyond changing a light: Amazon.com, Best Buy, Hewlett-Packard, Lowe's, Menards, Sears and Subway. Organizations interested in participating in the campaign should go to: <http://www.energystar.gov/changetheworld> and click to "Learn More" under "For Participating Organizations."

About Energy Star -

Energy Star was introduced by EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. Today, the Energy Star label can be found on more than 50 different kinds of products as well as new homes and buildings. Products that have earned the Energy Star designation prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy-efficiency specifications set by the government. In 2007 alone, Americans, with the help of Energy Star, saved \$16 billion on their energy bills while reducing greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 27 million vehicles.

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News Brief

For Release: (Washington, D.C. – Tuesday, April 22, 2008)

Winning Photos Show Passion for the Environment

Contact: Jeffrey Levy, (202) 564-4355 / levy.jeffrey@epa.gov

We invited you to share your best photos showing our mission to protect human health and the environment. Hundreds of you responded, sending in nearly 750 photos. Entries depicted scenes from around the world, including the United States, Namibia, Malaysia and Antarctica.

An EPA panel of judges chose 10 finalists in each of the three categories and then the public picked the winners. To encourage participation and provide maximum public access, the contest was hosted on the photo sharing site Flickr.com.

We're pleased to announce the winners, whose photos will be featured in a special gallery on the EPA Web site:

- Enjoying the Environment: Richard Burkart, Battle Creek, Mich.
- Protecting the Environment: Julie Larsen Maher, New York, N.Y.
- Nature and Wildlife: Alex Saberi, London, England

Winning and finalist photos: <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/photocontest/winners.html>

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News for Release: Monday, April 21, 2008

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Under Construction: A New Green Building Strategy for EPA

Contact: Dave Ryan - 202-564-7827 / ryan.dave@epa.gov

(Washington, DC - April 21, 2008) EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson today announced a new agency approach to encourage the mainstream adoption of green building practices. This strategy offers a multi-faceted approach to reducing the environmental and public health impacts of buildings and building-related products through their complete life span.

"At EPA, we appreciate the fact that our built environment has a tremendous impact on our natural environment. And so I am pleased the agency is moving in a new strategic direction with for green building, with a goal of spreading the adoption of effective green building practices nationwide," said Johnson.

EPA's green building strategy builds upon and calls for better coordination among existing programs, such as ENERGY STAR and WaterSense, which are designed to reduce the impacts of buildings and development. It involves working with the building industry to improve the quality and supply of green buildings and related products while also increasing demand through improved understanding of green building characteristics.

The strategy revolves around five objectives:

- to inform building decisions with better standards and metrics, to advance knowledge and overcome barriers through research
- to lead by example with the agency's own facilities
- to expand understanding of green building
- to increase adoption of green building practices in areas where progress has been more limited, including homes and existing commercial and public buildings.

The strategy was announced today at EPA's National Sustainable Design Expo on the National Mall.

For more information about green building, go to: www.epa.gov/greenbuilding

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****News Advisory****

For Immediate Release: Friday, April 18, 2008

EPA Leads the Way in Greening Information Technology

Contact: Suzanne Ackerman, (202)-564-4355 / ackerman.suzanne@epa.gov

(Washington, D.C. - April 18, 2008) To promote energy efficiency in small computer rooms, EPA will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Green Grid. This event recognizes the innovative efforts of EPA and the IT industry to promote the "greening" of computer facilities. The idea is to use an existing EPA computer room as a laboratory for optimizing energy efficiency, to standardize processes and performance measures, and to share best practices for replication across the country. Computer rooms across the United States accounted for an astonishing 1.5 percent of total U.S. electricity demand in 2006 - equivalent to the annual electric consumption of the state of Florida. These computer rooms may be small, but this effort promises to yield large energy savings.

The Green Grid is a non-profit that works with organizations to identify key factors driving energy consumption and help them reduce energy use in computer facilities. EPA has already begun reducing energy consumption in its National Computer Center (NCC) in Research Triangle Park, N.C. The partnership with Green Grid will further advance EPA's greening of its smaller computer centers.

WHO:

Stephen L. Johnson, EPA Administrator

Molly O'Neill, Assistant Administrator, EPA's Office of Environmental Information and EPA Chief Information Officer

John Tuccillo, Chairman, The Green Grid

WHAT:

MOU signing between EPA and The Green Grid

WHEN:

Monday, April 21, 2008, 1 p.m. EDT

(day before Earth Day)

WHERE:

EPA Rachel Carson Green Room

Ariel Rios South Building – 3rd Floor

1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20460

(Metro stop is Federal Triangle on both Orange and Blue Lines. Ariel Rios South is on the left as you come up the escalator.)

More information on energy efficiency at EPA's NCC: http://www.epa.gov/greeningepa/facilities/rtp_ncc.htm

For more information on The Green Grid: <http://www.thegreengrid.org/home>

Reporters must bring press credentials and arrive 15 minutes prior to the event start time. Please R.S.V.P. to Scott Fraser at 202-566-2126 or fraser.scott@epa.gov

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****News Advisory****

For Immediate Release: Thursday, April 17, 2008

Earth Day 2008: Green Technology and Buildings Bloom on the National Mall

Contact: Suzanne Ackerman, (202)-564-4355 / ackerman.suzanne@epa.gov

(Washington, D.C. - April 17, 2008) On April 20 – 22, 2008, EPA will hold the National Sustainable Design Expo that showcases new sustainable or "green" technologies. More than 50 college teams from across the country will exhibit their innovative solutions for an environmentally sustainable future, including: generating wind power from kites, solar panels made from plant chlorophyll, producing plastic from wastewater, green parking lots near floodplains to reduce runoff, new technologies to provide clean drinking water to developing nations, and much more!

On Monday morning, Administrator Stephen L. Johnson will announce EPA's new strategic approach to green building, which aims to help the agency facilitate mainstream adoption of effective green building practices.

The Expo is also the showcase for EPA's Annual P3 – People, Prosperity, and the Planet – Award Competition. Previous P3 winners have taken their innovations to new levels including starting successful businesses. This is a great opportunity not only for an Earth Day story, but to tell your readers about new green technologies.

WHO:

Stephen L. Johnson, EPA Administrator (speaking Monday, 9 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. EDT)
George Gray, Assistant Administrator, EPA Office of Research and Development
More than 50 Student Design Teams and 40 Exhibitors

WHAT:

4th Annual National Sustainable Design Expo and People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) Awards

WHEN:

Sunday, April 20 - Tuesday, April 22 - Earth Day

WHERE:

National Mall
between Constitution and Independence Avenues
and 3rd and 4th Streets, N.W.
(Federal Triangle Metro stop - Orange and Blue Lines)

More information about the P3 event: <http://www.epa.gov/P3>

Video of the exhibits and teams (after the event): <http://www.epa.gov/multimedia>

(EPA's new web multimedia portal)

EPA's Green Building programs: <http://www.epa.gov/greenbuilding>

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News for Release: Friday, April 18, 2008

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Earth Day 2008: Show Me the Green!

Contact: Suzanne Ackerman, (202) 564-4355 / ackerman.suzanne@epa.gov

For soundbites: http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/names/hq_2008-4-18_earth_day

(Washington, D.C. - April 18, 2008) Everyone is talking these days about "going green" and sustainability. And they're also asking: "What does sustainability really mean? I'd like to go green and help the planet, but how?" EPA can define it, but actions speak louder than words!

From April 20-22, **EPA is going to SHOW America what sustainability is all about.** EPA is hosting its annual National Sustainable Design Expo on the National Mall, where more than 50 college teams from across the country will display their innovative solutions for an environmentally sustainable future.

Examples of amazing sustainable projects you will see starting Sunday, April 20:

- Solar panels made out of natural chlorophyll from plants instead of silicon
- Generating electricity from flying kites
- Producing plastics from bacteria in wastewater
- Low-cost technologies to provide clean drinking water to developing nations
- Green buildings

"At the National Sustainable Design Expo environmental challenges are being tackled, not just with technical and scientific know-how, but with the spirit of innovation and creativity," said Dr. George Gray, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Research and Development. "The Expo is a great opportunity to see how the energy of these college students, from across the country, is powering solutions for a greener future today."

The 4th Annual National Sustainable Design Expo is open to the general public without charge on Sunday, April 20, from noon to 5 p.m. EDT, Monday, April 21, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT, and Tuesday, Earth Day, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EDT, on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., between 3rd and 4th Streets.

A highlight of the Expo is EPA's fourth annual People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) Award, a national competition involving 50 teams of college and university students. The teams will exhibit their novel designs to respond to sustainability challenges in the developed and developing world. P3 projects from years past proved that green designs save energy and are profitable. Several previous projects have had positive impacts around the world from Appalachian State University's biofuels initiative -- to promote renewable and biofuel production technologies -- to Rochester Institute of Technology's low-cost sustainable solar ovens being locally made and marketed in Latin America.

There will also be exhibits from more than 40 government agencies and nonprofit organizations who support the P3 Award competition, and will demonstrate their efforts to promote sustainability. This year's Expo is co-sponsored by The Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education and The World Environment Center.

Information on the Expo and the P3 award: <http://www.epa.gov/p3>

EPA's sustainability research program: <http://www.epa.gov/sustainability>

Video of the P3 winners, exhibits and teams at the Expo will be available Wednesday afternoon at: <http://www.epa.gov/P3/multimedia>

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News for Release: Thursday, April 17, 2008
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Students Recognized for Contributing To Healthier Environment

Contact Information: Shakeba Carter-Jenkins, (202)-564-4355 / carter-jenkins.shakeba@epa.gov

(Washington, D.C. - April 17, 2008) The White House and EPA are recognizing young people from around the country today at the 2007 President's Environmental Youth Awards (PEYA) for their contributions in promoting environmental awareness and community involvement in such issues as lead, recycling, water quality monitoring, air pollution and carbon footprints.

President George W. Bush and EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson presented the awards in a Rose Garden ceremony at the White House.

"Environmental responsibility is everyone's responsibility" said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "This year's Presidential Environmental Youth Award winners have made protecting our planet an everyday commitment, and proven that together we can create a cleaner, healthier world."

Winners were selected from among applicants to EPA's 10 regional offices. Regional EPA panels judge projects on environmental need, accomplishments of goals, long-term environmental benefits and positive impact on local communities. The panels also consider project design, coordination, implementation, innovation and soundness of approach. The winners come from Milton, Mass.; Forest Hills, N.Y.; Arlington, Va.; Huntingdon, Tenn.; Arlington Heights, Ill.; Pasadena, Texas; Reed Spring, Mich.; Helena, Mont.; Riverside, Calif.; and Redmond, Wash.

PEYA has been presented annually since 1971 to honor students in kindergarten through twelfth grade who develop innovative environmental projects.

Winners and project descriptions: <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/peya/peya2007.html>